Mint of the United States
Philadelphia April 9th 1836

Sir,

I have the honour to send you herewith, two impressions,-(one of which I pray you to give to the President,-) of a second die of Liberty. If you will compare it with the former one, you will not fail to be struck with the great improvement which we have succeeded in making. Our artists and men of taste, who made many unfavourable criticisms on the former, give this their full approbation. I anxiously hope that we may be so happy as to meet also with the approbation of the President and yourself.

The die for the reverse is not yet commenced, but I send you the drawings which we propose to follow,— the pen sketch being that which we prefer. The drawing is true to nature, for it is taken from the eagle itself,—a bird, recently killed, having been prepared and placed in the attitude which we had selected. The eagle is flying, and, like the country of which it is the emblem, its course is onward and upward. I propose to follow the letter of the law as to the legend on the reverse, and to introduce nothing but the words "United States of America" around the margin, and the denomination of the coin. The absurdity of the shield sticking to the breast of the bird is avoided,— the shield, with its thirteen stripes, being placed with the figure of Liberty on the face of the coin. The arrows and branches are also removed from the eagles claws, as contrary to nature and good taste. A constellation of Stars, equal to the number of States, is distributed, irregularly, over the Sky, supposed to be seen beyond the eagle, instead of having thirteen equal stars stiffly arranged in line around the margin.

I wait the judgment of the President and yourself as to the points respectfully referred to you above, and shall be much gratified if they meet your approbation.

And now, Sir, I have another subject to refer to the same decision. It was my intention, as you know, to begin the new coinage with the dollar: but it has occured to me that it might be more proper, and more agreeable to the government, that it should be begun with the coins to be made of the indemnity gold. There is a fitneſs in this, to which I am sure I need not call your attention. Besides, it would really be a pity that six millions worth of gold coins should be spread over the country with that thing on the reverse which courtesy may call an eagle, but which nature and art refuse to recognize. I wait for your orders as to the course which I shall pursue under these circumstances. If the indemnity gold is to be struck with the new dies, the first issue will be debeing placed with the figure of Liberty on the face of the coin. The arrows and branches are also removed from the eagles claws, as contrary to nature and good taste. A constellation of Stars, equal to the number of States, is distributed, irregularly, over the sky, supposed to be seen beyond the eagle, instead of having thirteen equal stars stiffly arranged in line around the margin.

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-layed three months, - perhaps four: for this is a matter which cannot be hurried. But the amount issued before the opening of the next Congress will not there-by be altered: for the planchets can be prepared in advance; and when the dies are ready, our steam presses will strike the coins with great rapidity.

Most respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec'y of Treasury.

P.S. I must pray you to return the drawings, as we have no copies of them.

Acknge. rec't - & no objection to the proposed emblem is seen worth noticing except that the attitude of flight that with for flight on its prey is considered best when Indian ink is used, & pen drawing. But it is the the pen. Though in the Court perhaps the novelty should be changed. Cannot desire that no obstacle which can be prevented will be allowed to postpone a

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presented will be allowed to [illegible] a single day the most rapid & efficient progress perhaps in the coinage of both gold & silver they may be on hand -

W

P.S. Send any to [illegible]

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Most respectfully,

Your faithful Servant,

R. M. Patterson

Director

To/ Hon. Levi Woodbury

Sec. of Treasury

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*{Notes at end in different handwriting, perhaps from Woodbury}*

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But it is the conundrum that no obstacle which can be summoned will be allowed [delay] a single day the most rapid and efficient progress practicable on the coinage of both gold & silver that may be on hand.

W.

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